

Assemblyman
PAUL KORETZ

Forty-second Assembly District

proudly representing the communities of West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, Century City, Westwood, Bel Air, Brentwood, West Los Angeles, Hollywood, Hancock Park, Universal City, Studio City, and Sherman Oaks



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Contact: Teresa Stark
916-319-2042
916-715-2203 (cell)

KORETZ RESPONDS TO BUSH'S ENDORSEMENT OF A MARRIAGE AMENDMENT

(**Sacramento**) Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood) today commented on President Bush's announcement that he supports a constitutional amendment defining marriage as only between a man and woman.

"Writing civil marriage discrimination into the U.S. Constitution would be a horrible mistake. History will show that those who support this amendment failed to defend families against grave injustice. Lesbian and gay families desperately need the same legal protections available to every other American family," said Assemblyman Koretz.

Commenting on the imminent issuance of state sanctioned marriage licenses in Massachusetts, Koretz said, "The Supreme Judicial Court judges in Massachusetts are not 'activists' as President Bush has charged. They are fulfilling their fiduciary duty to protect the rights of the few against the tyranny of the majority. This is how equal protection clauses are supposed to work," said Assemblyman Koretz.

On February 13th Koretz expressed his support for actions taken by San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, and urged the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to quickly order the issuance of marriage licenses for same-gender couples.

"Marriage equality for gay and lesbian couples is a human rights issue. If we are unwilling to protect minority rights except when it is popular at the ballot box, then our constitutional protections become meaningless. In the landmark case of *Brown v. Board of Education*, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the constitutionality of 'separate, but equal,' and they did so without the support of a majority of the American people. That decision was right 1954, and the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts is right today," commented Koretz.

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